



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

June 4, 2004

**ODESSA TRIO SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON
IN CONNECTION WITH DRIVE-BY SHOOTING**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that 19-year-old Ivan Rene Porras was sentenced to 25 years in federal prison for his role in an Odessa drive-by shooting that resulted in the death of 22-year-old Ruben Macias, Jr.

In addition to the prison term, U.S. District Judge Robert Junell ordered Porras to be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing his prison term and pay \$10,000 restitution to the family of the deceased to cover funeral expenses.

"Mr. Porras is a violent criminal who has earned everyday of his 25-year prison sentence," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. "Through the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, our office will continue to vigorously prosecute violent criminals who use guns to threaten our communities. Odessa is a safer place to live now that Mr. Porras is off the streets."

On May 2, 2003, Porras used a 12 gauge shotgun while traveling in a car to shoot, and ultimately kill, Mr. Macias. One of Porras' co-defendants—20-year-old Alexander Venegas—supplied the shotgun; the other co-defendant, 18-year-old Fabian Lujan, drove the vehicle. According to court records, the altercation allegedly began after Macias flashed purported gang signs at the defendants.

Porras, Venegas and Lujan pled guilty on March 12, 2004, November 14, 2003 and November 17, 2003, respectively. Each pled guilty to being a drug user in possession of a firearm and use of a firearm in relation to a crime of violence. Co-defendants, Venegas and Fabian, are currently serving 10-year and 8-year federal prison terms, respectively.

This case was investigated by the Odessa Police Department, the Texas Rangers and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant United States Attorney Glenn Roque-Jackson prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is carrying out the Department of Justice's gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement to target criminals in possession of guns. Federal law insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences.

#####

